DC
BAT MAN
NO. 322 APR.
40¢
ALL NEW!
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
CAPTAIN BOOMERANG IS MOVING IN ON GOTHAM—WITH MURDER ON HIS MIND!!
C-281

VROOOOMMM

SUPER HEROES* CARS MEAN GREAT FUN THAT FITS IN YOUR POCKET.

Listen. Now you can zoom around town with your favorite SUPER HEROES* vehicles. From Corgi.
See, we wanted to make these cars just the right size (and just the right price) for you. So you can just stick the fun in your pocket and go wherever you want.
'Nuff said?

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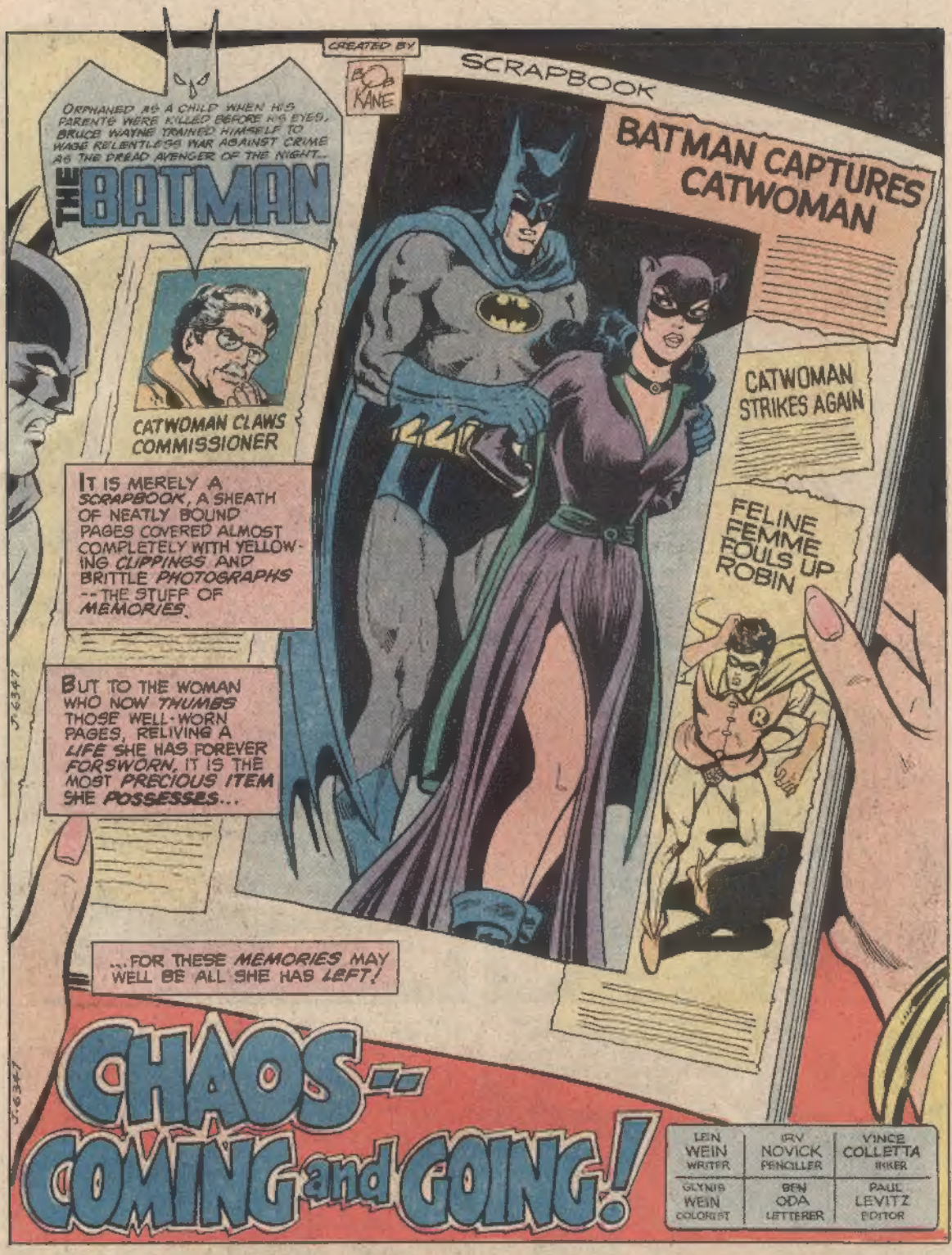
corgi


CREATED BY BOB KANE
ORPHANED AS A CHILD WHEN HIS PARENTS WERE KILLED BEFORE HIS EYES, BRUCE WAYNE TRAINED HIMSELF TO WAGE RELENTLESS WAR AGAINST CRIME AS THE DREAD AVENGER OF THE NIGHT...
THE BATMAN
SCRAPBOOK
BATMAN CAPTURES CATWOMAN
CATWOMAN CLAWS COMMISSIONER
CATWOMAN STRIKES AGAIN
FELINE FEMME FOULS UP ROBIN
IT IS MERELY A SCRAPBOOK, A SHEATH OF NEATLY BOUND PAGES COVERED ALMOST COMPLETELY WITH YELLOWING CLIPPINGS AND BRITTLE PHOTOGRAPHS --THE STUFF OF MEMORIES.
BUT TO THE WOMAN WHO NOW THUMBS THOSE WELL-WORN PAGES, RELIVING A LIFE SHE HAS FOREVER FORSWORN, IT IS THE MOST PRECIOUS ITEM SHE POSSESSES...
...FOR THESE MEMORIES MAY WELL BE ALL SHE HAS LEFT!
CHAOS--COMING and GOING!
LEN WEIN WRITER
IRV NOVICK PENCILLER
VINCE COLLETTA INKER
GLYNIS WEIN COLORIST
BEN ODA LETTERER
PAUL LEVITZ EDITOR

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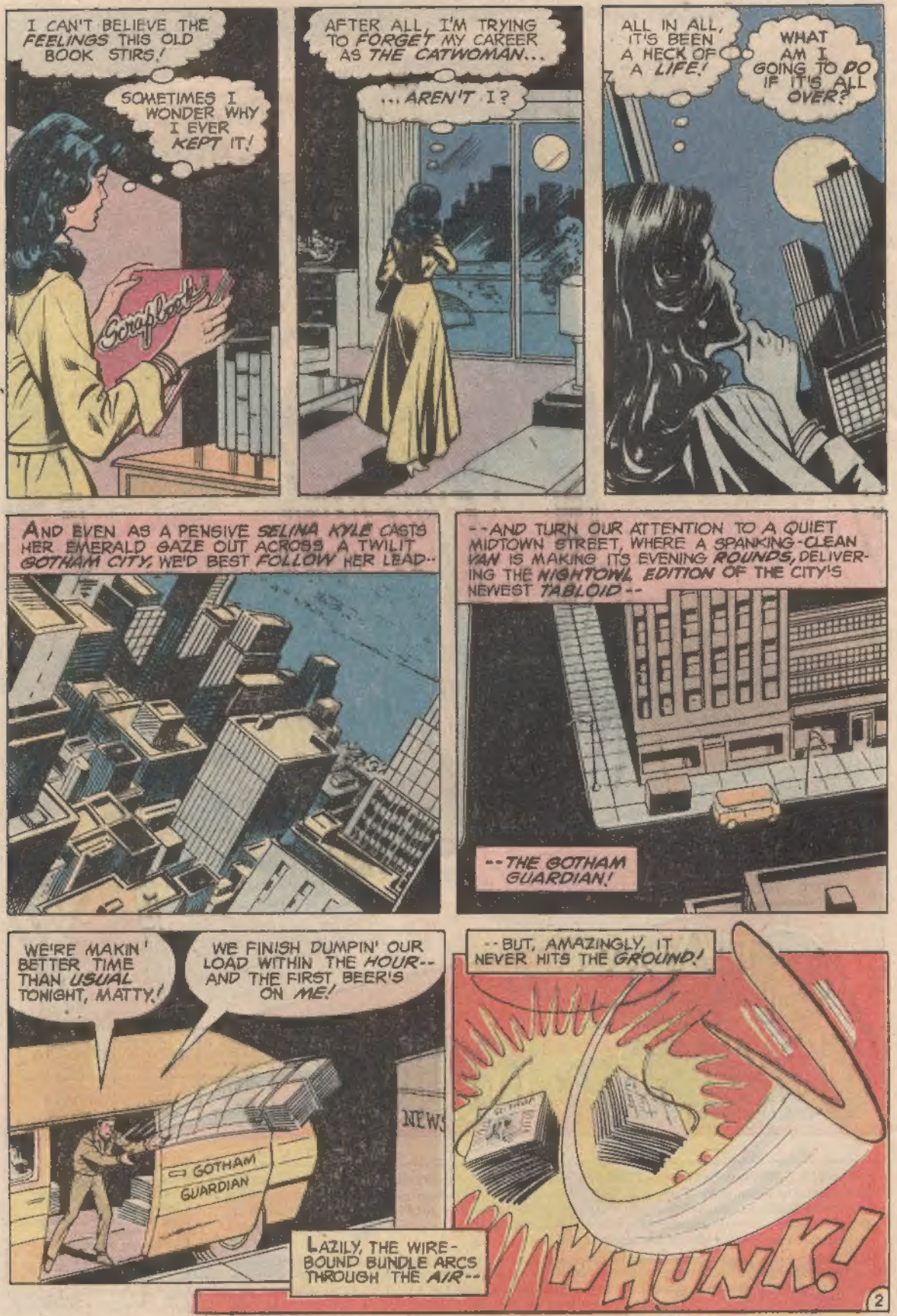
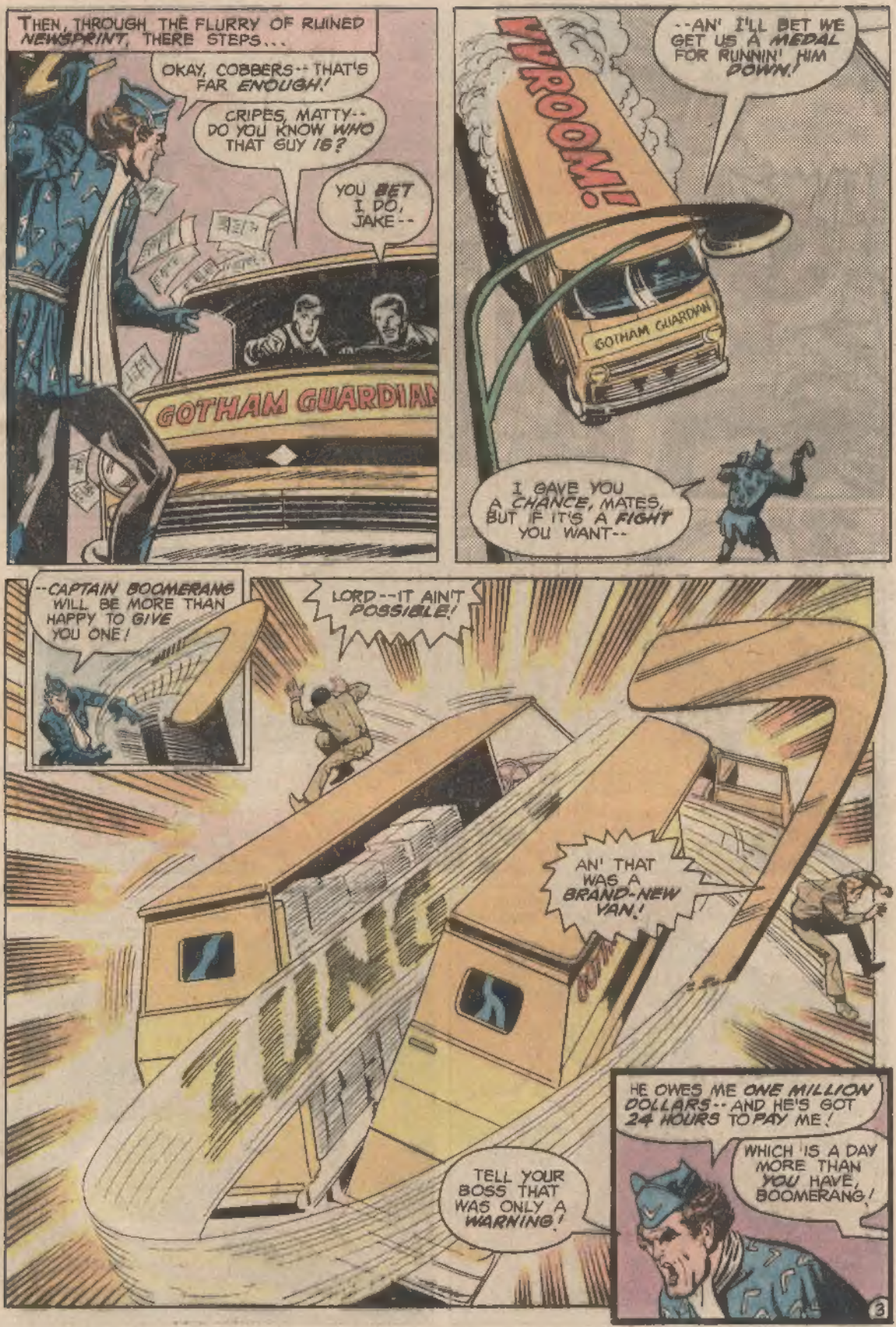
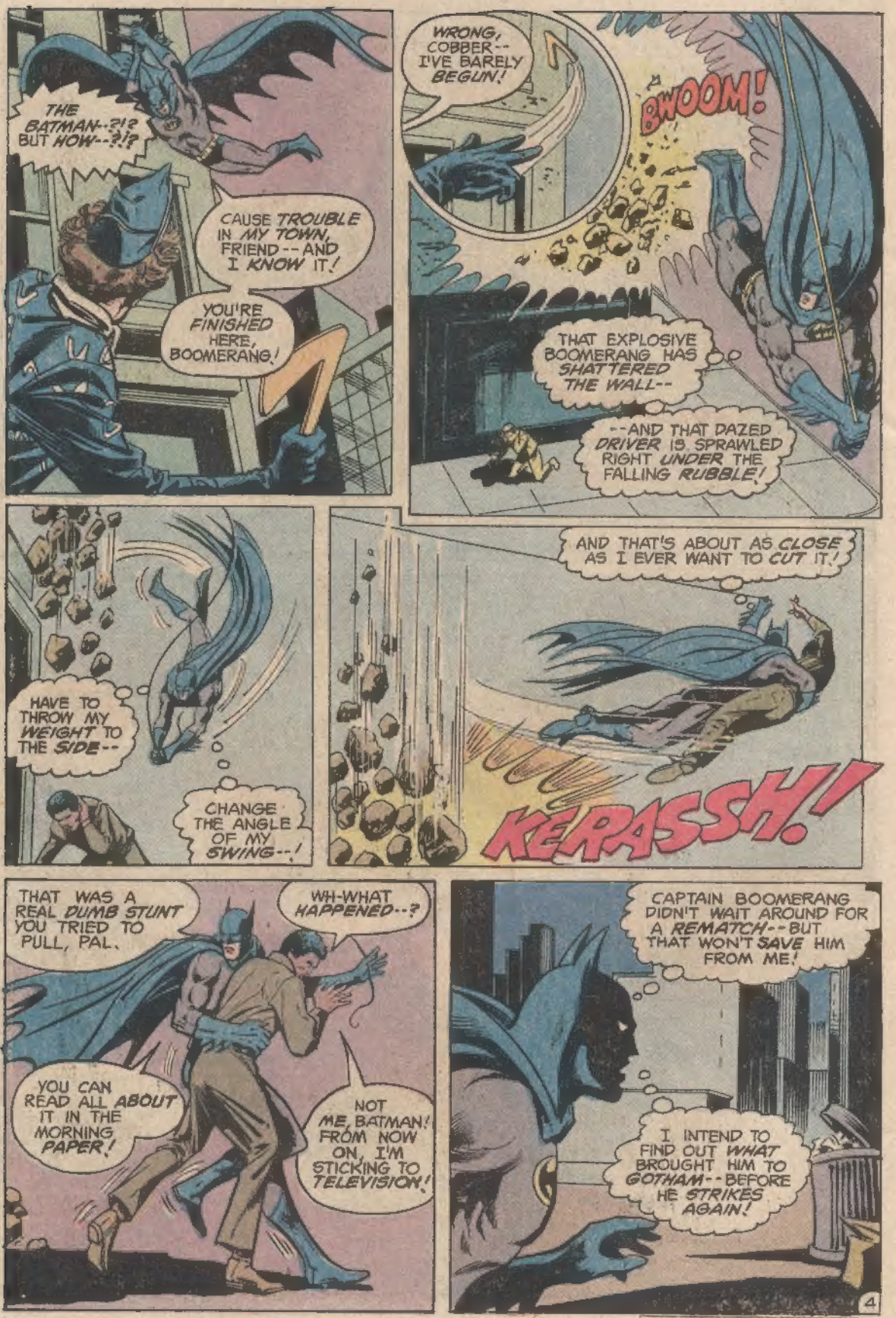

I CAN'T BELIEVE THE FEELINGS THIS OLD BOOK STIRS!
SOMETIMES I WONDER WHY I EVER KEPT IT!
Scrapbook
AFTER ALL, I'M TRYING TO FORGET MY CAREER AS THE CATWOMAN...
...AREN'T I?
ALL IN ALL, IT'S BEEN A HECK OF A LIFE!
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO IF IT'S ALL OVER?
AND EVEN AS A PENSIVE SELINA KYLE CASTS HER EMERALD GAZE OUT ACROSS A TWILIT GOTHAM CITY, WE'D BEST FOLLOW HER LEAD--
--AND TURN OUR ATTENTION TO A QUIET MIDTOWN STREET, WHERE A SPANKING-CLEAN VAN IS MAKING ITS EVENING ROUNDS, DELIVERING THE NIGHTOWL EDITION OF THE CITY'S NEWEST TABLOID--
--THE GOTHAM GUARDIAN!
WE'RE MAKIN' BETTER TIME THAN USUAL TONIGHT, MATTY!
WE FINISH DUMPIN' OUR LOAD WITHIN THE HOUR-- AND THE FIRST BEER'S ON ME!
NEWS
GOTHAM GUARDIAN
LAZILY, THE WIRE-BOUND BUNDLE ARCS THROUGH THE AIR--
--BUT, AMAZINGLY, IT NEVER HITS THE GROUND!
WHUNK!
2


THEN, THROUGH THE FLURRY OF RUINED NEWSPRINT, THERE STEPS...
OKAY, COBBERS -- THAT'S FAR ENOUGH!
CRIPES, MATTY -- DO YOU KNOW WHO THAT GUY IS?
YOU BET I DO, JAKE --
GOTHAM GUARDIAN
YYROOM!
--AN' I'LL BET WE GET US A MEDAL FOR RUNNIN' HIM DOWN!
GOTHAM GUARDIAN
I GAVE YOU A CHANCE, MATES, BUT IF IT'S A FIGHT YOU WANT --
--CAPTAIN BOOMERANG WILL BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO GIVE YOU ONE!
LORD -- IT AIN'T POSSIBLE!
AN' THAT WAS A BRAND-NEW VAN!
TELL YOUR BOSS THAT WAS ONLY A WARNING!
HE OWES ME ONE MILLION DOLLARS -- AND HE'S GOT 24 HOURS TO PAY ME!
WHICH IS A DAY MORE THAN YOU HAVE, BOOMERANG!
8


THE BATMAN--?!? BUT HOW--?!?
CAUSE TROUBLE IN MY TOWN, FRIEND--AND I KNOW IT!
YOU'RE FINISHED HERE, BOOMERANG!
WRONG, COBBER--I'VE BARELY BEGUN!
BWOOM!
THAT EXPLOSIVE BOOMERANG HAS SHATTERED THE WALL--
--AND THAT DAZED DRIVER IS SPRAWLED RIGHT UNDER THE FALLING RUBBLE!
HAVE TO THROW MY WEIGHT TO THE SIDE--
CHANGE THE ANGLE OF MY SWING--!
AND THAT'S ABOUT AS CLOSE AS I EVER WANT TO CUT IT!
KERASSH!
THAT WAS A REAL DUMB STUNT YOU TRIED TO PULL, PAL.
WH-WHAT HAPPENED--?
YOU CAN READ ALL ABOUT IT IN THE MORNING PAPER!
NOT ME, BATMAN! FROM NOW ON, I'M STICKING TO TELEVISION!
CAPTAIN BOOMERANG DIDN'T WAIT AROUND FOR A REMATCH--BUT THAT WON'T SAVE HIM FROM ME!
I INTEND TO FIND OUT WHAT BROUGHT HIM TO GOTHAM--BEFORE HE STRIKES AGAIN!
4
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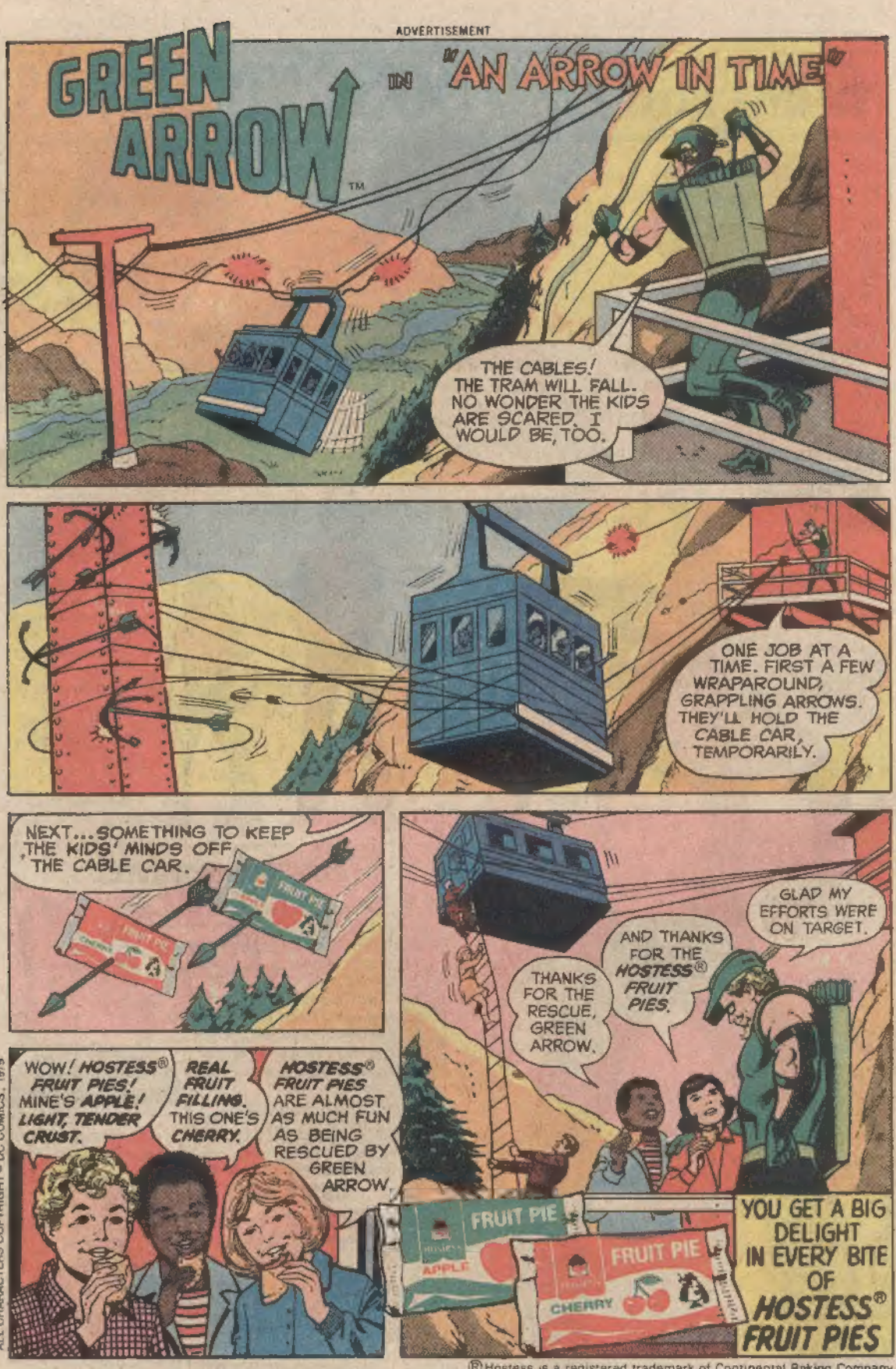
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AND THANKS FOR THE HOSTESS® FRUIT PIES.
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CHERRY
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THE PROPER STANCE.

Gumfighter's hat (optional)
Hubba Bubba bubble should be facing opponent
Keep elbows akimbo (bent)
93°
Note soft, juicy and delicious Hubba Bubba close at hand.
Knees slightly bent forward
Feet planted firmly on ground

YOUR SIZE IS NOT IMPORTANT.

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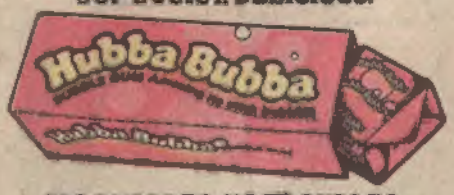
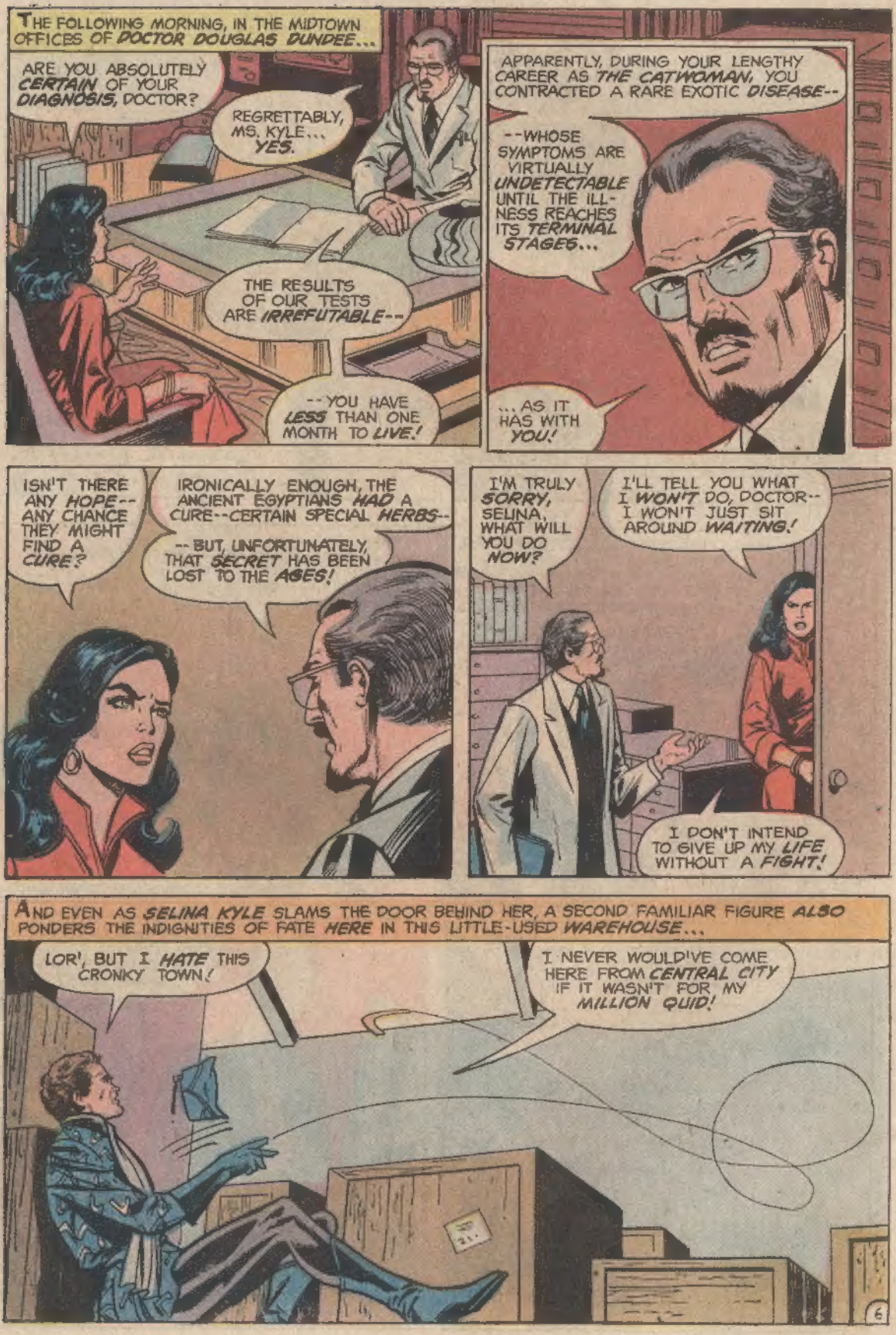


BIG BUBBLES, NO TROUBLES.

Geographic availability may vary.

THE GLEAMING WAYNE FOUNDATION SEEMS ALMOST OUT OF PLACE AGAINST THE JAGGED GOTHAM SKYLINE--
--IT'S ULTRA-MODERN ARCHITECTURE IS FLANKED BY BUILDINGS MORE BAROQUE IN DESIGN--
--WHILE ITS ROOF IS CROWNED WITH A PLUSH PENTHOUSE APARTMENT THAT IS HOME TO MILLIONAIRE PHILANTHROPIST BRUCE WAYNE--
--AND THUS, HOME AS WELL TO THE BATMAN!
MAY I INQUIRE AS TO YOUR EVENING, MASTER BRUCE?
NO BUSIER THAN USUAL, ALFRED-- JUST A TOUCH MORE PUZZLING!
HOW SO, SIR?
THE FLASH'S OLD FOE, CAPTAIN BOOMERANG, HAS SUDDENLY SHOWN UP IN TOWN--AND HE'S TRYING TO SHAKE DOWN THE GOTHAM GUARDIAN TO THE TUNE OF ONE MILLION DOLLARS!
THEN WILL YOU BE CALLING IN MASTER FLASH ON THIS ONE, SIR?
ALFRED, THE NIGHT I CAN'T HANDLE A PUNK LIKE BOOMERANG ALONE IS THE NIGHT I HANG UP MY COWL!
AS YOU PREFER, SIR. I WAS JUST--
I KNOW, OLD FRIEND... AND I APPRECIATE THE THOUGHT.
JUST CALL LUCIUS FOX FOR ME FIRST THING IN THE MORNING--AND FIND OUT WHO OWNS THE GUARDIAN!
MAY I ASK WHY, SIR?
THEY MAY BE BOOMERANG'S NEXT TARGETS!
OH.
POOR MASTER BRUCE... HE LOOKED SO TIRED. HE COULD USE A FEW DAYS' REST!
BUT THERE'S NO REST FOR THE WICKED... OR FOR THE BATMAN!
5


THE FOLLOWING MORNING, IN THE MIDTOWN OFFICES OF DOCTOR DOUGLAS DUNDEE...
ARE YOU ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN OF YOUR DIAGNOSIS, DOCTOR?
REGRETTABLY, MS. KYLE... YES.
THE RESULTS OF OUR TESTS ARE IRREFUTABLE--
--YOU HAVE LESS THAN ONE MONTH TO LIVE!
APPARENTLY, DURING YOUR LENGTHY CAREER AS THE CATWOMAN, YOU CONTRACTED A RARE EXOTIC DISEASE--
--WHOSE SYMPTOMS ARE VIRTUALLY UNDETECTABLE UNTIL THE ILLNESS REACHES ITS TERMINAL STAGES...
...AS IT HAS WITH YOU!
ISN'T THERE ANY HOPE--ANY CHANCE THEY MIGHT FIND A CURE?
IRONICALLY ENOUGH, THE ANCIENT EGYPTIANS HAD A CURE--CERTAIN SPECIAL HERBS--
--BUT, UNFORTUNATELY, THAT SECRET HAS BEEN LOST TO THE AGES!
I'M TRULY SORRY, SELINA, WHAT WILL YOU DO NOW?
I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I WON'T DO, DOCTOR--I WON'T JUST SIT AROUND WAITING!
I DON'T INTEND TO GIVE UP MY LIFE WITHOUT A FIGHT!
AND EVEN AS SELINA KYLE SLAMS THE DOOR BEHIND HER, A SECOND FAMILIAR FIGURE ALSO PONDERS THE INDIGNITIES OF FATE HERE IN THIS LITTLE-USED WAREHOUSE...
LOR', BUT I HATE THIS CRONKY TOWN!
I NEVER WOULD'VE COME HERE FROM CENTRAL CITY IF IT WASN'T FOR MY MILLION QUID!
6

THAT SWAG WAS MY RETIREMENT FUND--AND I'LL NOT SEE IT STOLEN BY ANY FAST-TALKING, HIGH-LIVING SILVERTAIL!
T'S REALLY RUM--DOWN-RIGHT IRONIC! THE ONE TIME I PLAY THE GAME BY THEIR RULES--
--AND IT'S ME WHO GETS TAKEN FOR A SUCKER!
WELL, NOBODY CROSSES "DIGGER" HARKNESS--AND GETS AWAY WITH IT INTACT!
I TOOK THE SIMPLE WEAPON OF THE AUSTRALIAN BUSHMEN--AND MADE THE USE OF T AN ART!
I'M A JACK WHO ALWAYS PAYS HIS DEBTS--AND ALWAYS COLLECTS ON THEM!
THAT FAT SPRUIKER OWES ME, AND HE'S GOING TO PAY ME.
--ONE WAY OR THE OT!
WHILE, A FEW HOURS LATER, AT GOTHAM'S SPRAWLING RIVERSIDE MUSEUM...
THE TREASURES OF EGYPT NOW ON DISPLAY
PLEASE KEEP TOGETHER, GROUP! IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, I'LL BE HAPPY TO ANSWER THEM.
DON'T KNOW WHAT BROUGHT ME HERE -EXCEPT THAT I NEEDED THE DISTRACTION--AND THIS EGYPTIAN EXHIBIT IS DEVOTED TO MY FAVORITE SUBJECT..
...CATS!

FOR YOUR INFORMATION, FOLKS--THESE ANCIENT ARTIFACTS ARE A TRULY UNIQUE FIND!
THEY WERE DISCOVERED INTACT IN THE TOMB OF A MAJOR COURT PHYSICIAN--
--SO PERFECTLY PRESERVED THAT IT IS BELIEVED THESE HERMETICALLY SEALED URNS STILL CONTAIN THE PHYSICIAN'S SPECIAL MEDICINAL HERBS!
WHAT--?!?
...THE ANCIENT EGYPTIANS HAD A CURE--CERTAIN SPECIAL HERBS...
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE--ALMOST TOO MUCH TO BELIEVE!
COULD THESE PRIMITIVE HERBS ACTUALLY PROVIDE A CURE FOR MY--?
SORRY, MISS--BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO STEP BACK! NOBODY IS ALLOWED TO TOUCH THE EXHIBIT!
STUPID FOOL! STUPID RULES! IT'S MY LIFE THAT'S AT STAKE HERE--MY LIFE!
I COULD GLADLY SCRATCH YOUR EYES OUT FOR THAT!
NOW IF YOU'LL ALL JUST FOLLOW ME TO OUR NEXT EXHIBIT--!
NO! I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE--GIVE MYSELF TIME TO THINK!
MY ONLY POSSIBLE HOPE FOR SALVATION MAY REST INSIDE THOSE URNS--
--AND SOMEHOW, I'VE GOT TO GET MY HANDS ON THEM!
8

Hey Kids, have as much fun in Fruit Stripe Land as you do chewing Fruit Stripe Gum.

START HERE

Q: There are two delicious Fruit Stripe Gums to choose from What are they?

A: Fruit Stripe Regular and Fruit Stripe Bubble Gum

Q: Why do we put all those wild colorful fruity stripes on every single stick?

A: To show you that deeeee-licious fruity Fruit Stripe F'lavor

Q: There's a whole herd of flavors inside every pack How many can you find?

A: Lemon Orange Cherry Lime Grape and Bubble Gum f'lavor 100

Q: What are the four different kinds of big, juicy, easy-to-blow bubbles?

A: Cherry Grape Lemon and Bubble Gum.

It sure was fun galloping through Fruit Stripe Land with you

Regular and Bubble Gum

Fruit Stripe Gum

means

Fruit Stripe Fun

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EVENING IN GOTHAM, WHEN THE DUSK HAS FINALLY SETTLED...
COULD YE BE SPARIN' ME A QUARTER NOW, SIR--JUST TILL ME DOLE COMES THROUGH?
STOP BOTHERIN' ME, YOU OLD BUM--
--OR I'LL CALL A COP!
I TAKE IT BUSINESS HAS BEEN BETTER?
WHO--?!?
AH--SO 'TIS YOU, LADDIE! WHAT CAN OL' SHAMROCK DO FOR YE?
I NEED YOUR HELP, IRISH!
CAN YOU OR ONE OF YOUR PANHANDLING CRONIES TELL ME WHERE TO FIND CAPTAIN BOOMERANG?
SO 'TIS THAT RASCAL NOW, IS IT? SURE AN' I HAVEN'T HEARD A WORD, LADDIE--
--BUT WE'LL START LOOKIN' FOR YE!
BEEP BEEP
-EH?
I APPRECIATE IT, SHAMROCK! I--
I'M AFRAID YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE ME, IRISH--SOMETHING'S JUST COME UP!
AH, THE BLESSIN'S OF HONEST HARD WORK! D'YE SEE NOW, LADDIE, WHY I AVOID IT LIKE THE PLAGUE?
TOP O' THE EVENIN' TO YE, BATMAN!
AND TO YOU, SHAMROCK. TAKE CARE.
AND WHEN THE AMIABLE IRISH DERELICT HAS AMBLED OUT OF SIGHT...
YES, ALFRED--WHAT IS IT?
MASTER LUCIUS FINALLY UNEARTHED THAT INFORMATION YOU WANTED, SIR!
TECHNICALLY, THE GOTHAM GUARDIAN IS WHOLLY OWNED AND OPERATED BY THE CONNOISSEUR CORPORATION--
--BUT MASTER LUCIUS HAS LEARNED THAT THIS CORPORATION IS ACTUALLY MERELY A PHONY FRONT ORGANIZATION FOR ONE MAN!
OH?
AND JUST WHO IS THAT MAN, ALFRED?
YOU WON'T BE PLEASED, SIR!
THE GENTLEMAN IN QUESTION IS--GREGORIAN FALSTAFF!
9

WHILE, ACROSS TOWN, IN THE TOWER SUITE OF THE AMBASSADOR HOTEL--
--THE SUBJECT OF THE BATMAN'S UNSETTLING CONVERSATION ENJOYS HIS EVENING'S REPAST...
THAT LEG OF MUTTON LOOKS PARTICULARLY TEMPTING, KARLYLE!
AN EXCELLENT CHOICE, MR. FALSTAFF!
AYE, A FAIR DINKUM CHOICE INDEED-- FOR A LAST MEAL!
WHAT--?!?
THUD!
IT'S TAKEN ME A LONG TIME TO FIND YOU, MATE-- I'VE COME FOR MY MONEY!
WHOEVER HE IS, KARLYLE-- GET RID OF HIM!!
AS YOU WISH, SIR! IT WILL BE MY PLEASURE!
THAT'S AS CLOSE AS YOU COME, COBBER-- I KNOW ALL ABOUT YOU!
YOU'RE KARLYLE KRUGERRAND THE FAT MAN'S AIDE-DE-CAMP AND BODYGUARD!
AS I'VE HEARD IT, YOU CAN KILL A JACK WITH YOUR BARE HANDS--
--SO YOU'LL FORGIVE ME IF I COSH YOU BEFORE YOU CAN GET THOSE HANDS ON ME!
YAK!
UUNNHH!!
NOW GET YOUR BIG DUFF OUT OF THAT CHAIR, FAT MAN - AND GET ME MY MONEY!
WHAT MONEY?! WHAT IN SANITY'S NAME ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT MY GOOD MAN?
10

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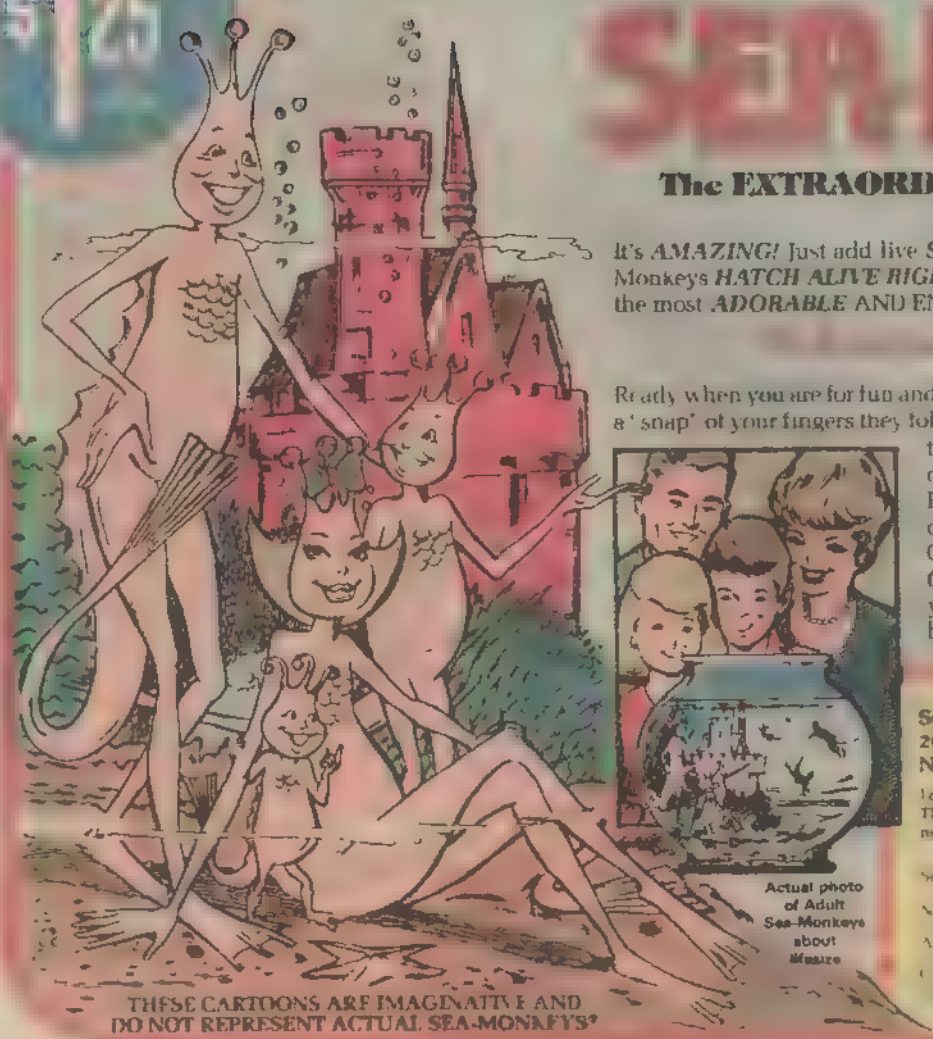

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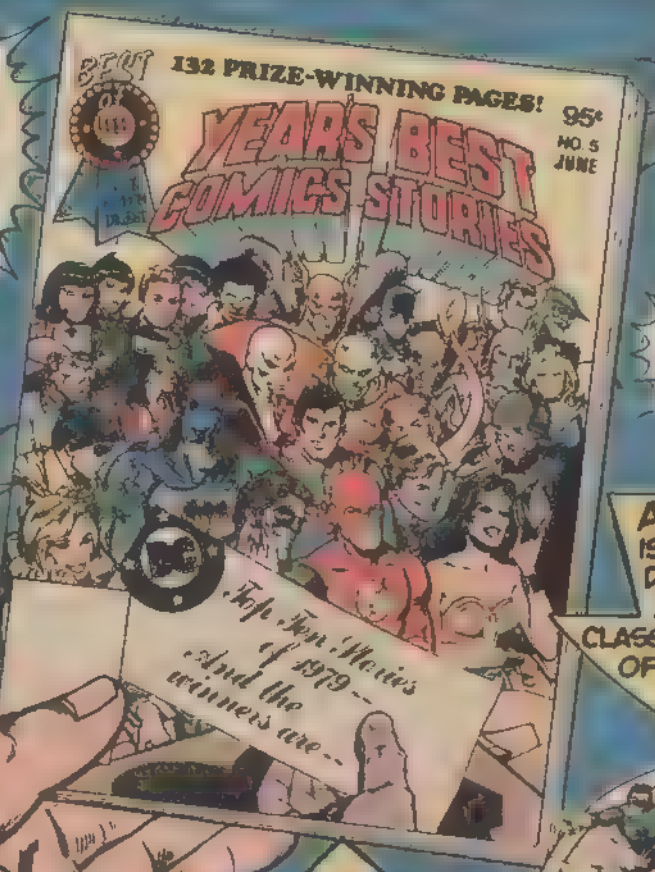

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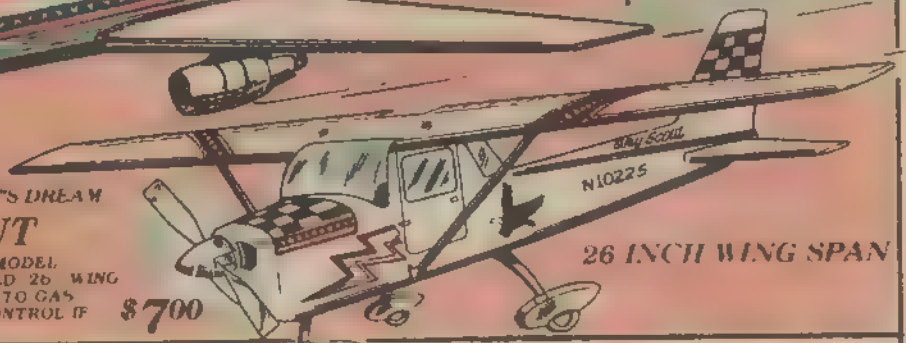

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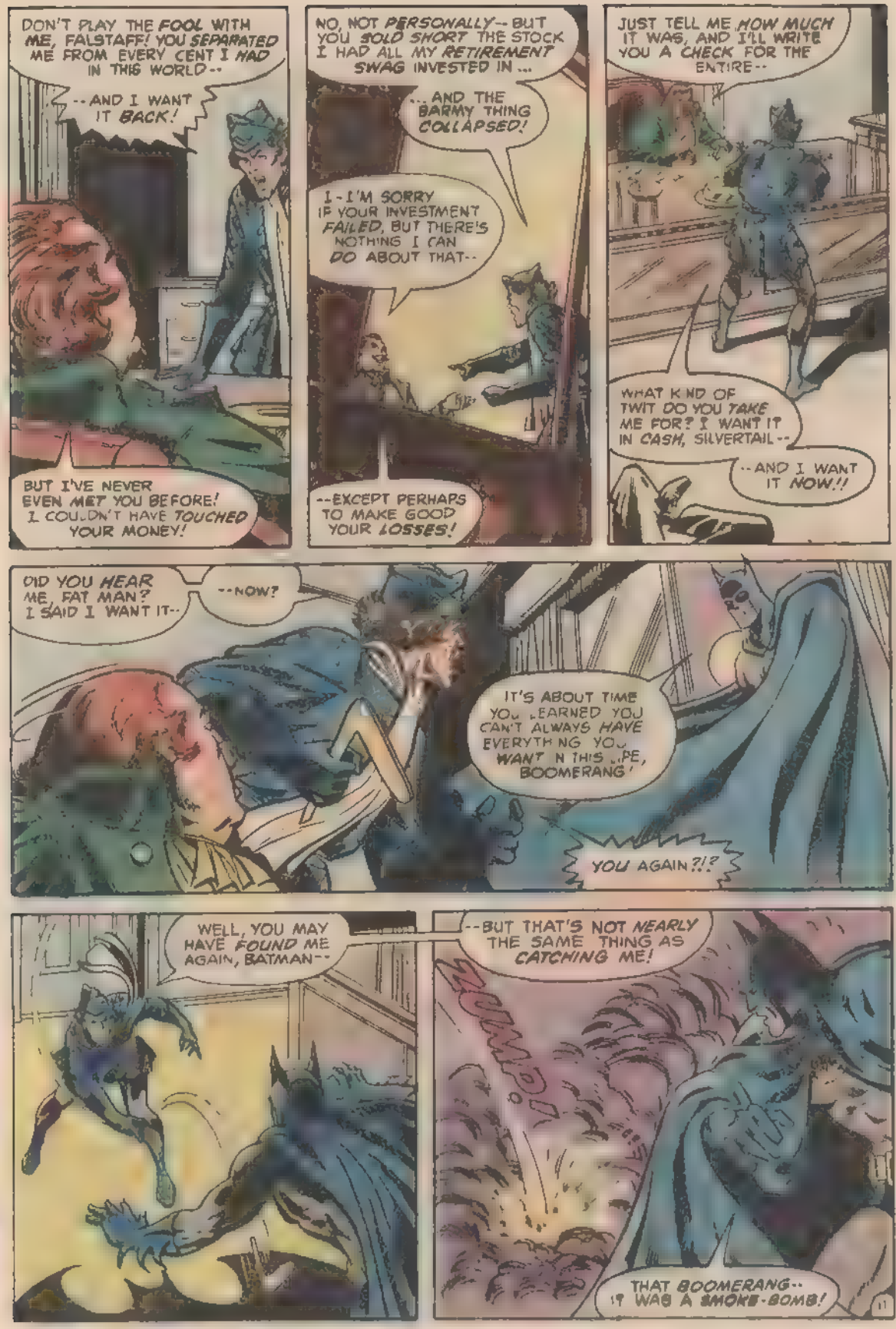
DON'T PLAY THE FOOL WITH ME, FALSTAFF! YOU SEPARATED ME FROM EVERY CENT I HAD IN THIS WORLD--
--AND I WANT IT BACK!
BUT I'VE NEVER EVEN MET YOU BEFORE! I COULDN'T HAVE TOUCHED YOUR MONEY!
NO, NOT PERSONALLY-- BUT YOU SOLD SHORT THE STOCK I HAD ALL MY RETIREMENT SWAG INVESTED IN ...
... AND THE BARMY THING COLLAPSED!
I-I'M SORRY IF YOUR INVESTMENT FAILED, BUT THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT THAT--
--EXCEPT PERHAPS TO MAKE GOOD YOUR LOSSES!
JUST TELL ME HOW MUCH IT WAS, AND I'LL WRITE YOU A CHECK FOR THE ENTIRE--
WHAT KIND OF TWIT DO YOU TAKE ME FOR? I WANT IT IN CASH, SILVERTAIL--
--AND I WANT IT NOW!!
DID YOU HEAR ME, FAT MAN? I SAID I WANT IT--
--NOW?
IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU LEARNED YOU CAN'T ALWAYS HAVE EVERYTHING YOU WANT IN THIS LIFE, BOOMERANG!
YOU AGAIN?!?
WELL, YOU MAY HAVE FOUND ME AGAIN, BATMAN--
--BUT THAT'S NOT NEARLY THE SAME THING AS CATCHING ME!
SCUMP!
THAT BOOMERANG-- IT WAS A SMOKE-BOMB!

YOU DIDN'T HONESTLY EXPECT A LITTLE SMOKE TO STOP ME--DID YOU, BOOMERANG?
NO-- JUST SLOW YOU DOWN LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO THROW THIS!
NO WAY TO AVOID THAT THING--!
I'LL JUST HAVE TO STAND MY GROUND-- AND TRY TO BEAT IT!
ONE WELL-PLACED KARATE CHOP OUGHT TO-- EH?
THE RANG SPLIT IN TWO BEFORE I EVEN TOUCHED IT!
KRAK!
THEY'RE COMING AT ME FROM BOTH SIDES NOW!
SPAK
HAVE TO MOVE FAST BEFORE
WHACK!
UUNNHH!
YOU GAVE IT A FAIR DINKUM TRY, COBBER BUT FAIR ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH WHEN YOU'RE DEAL'N' WITH THE LIKES OF ME!
HA HA HA HA HA
12
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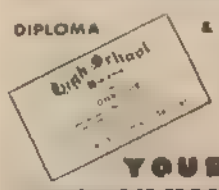

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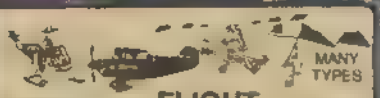

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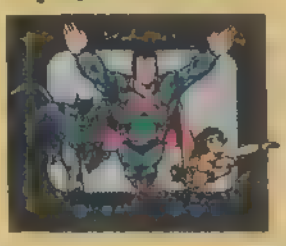

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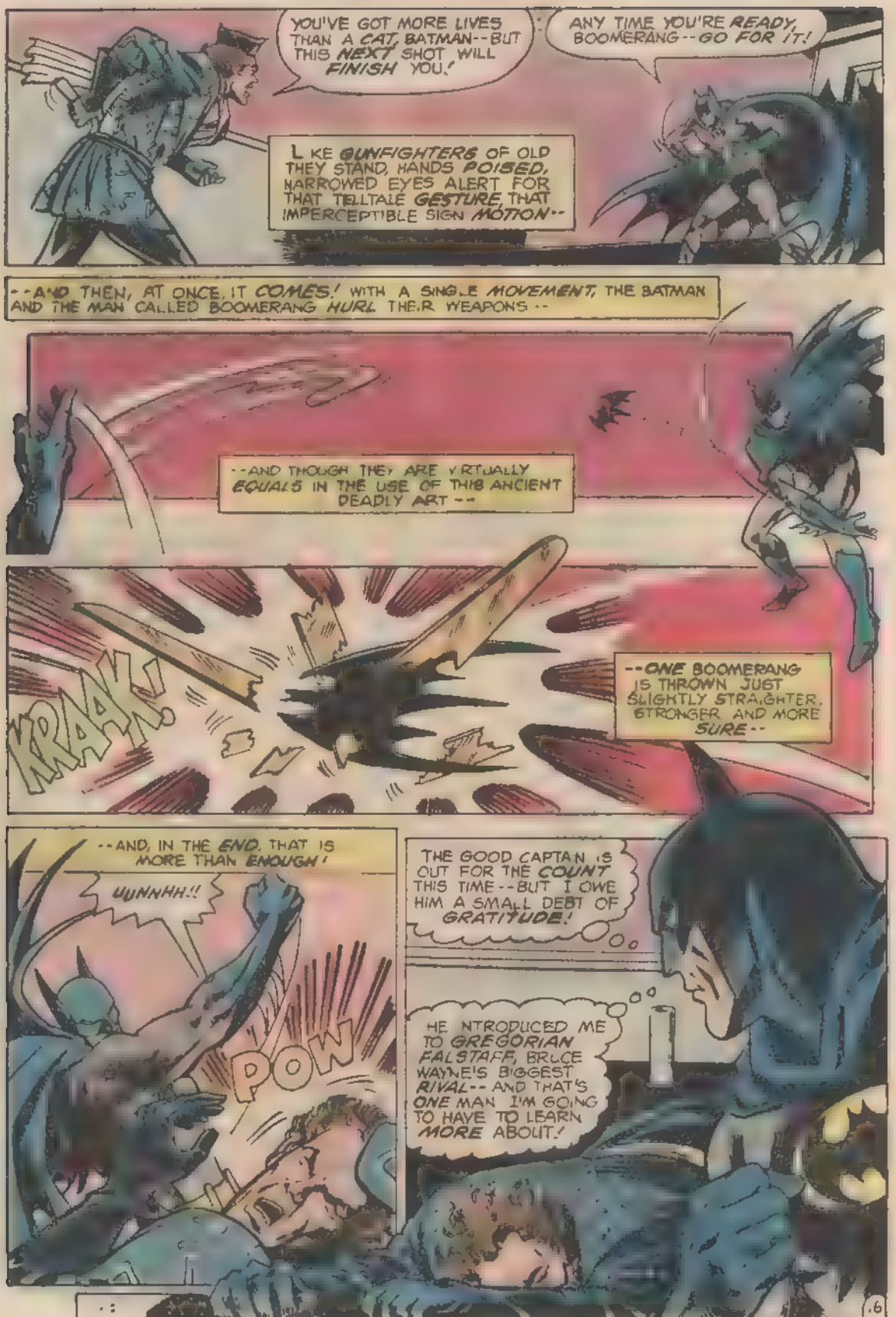
WHILE, IN THE DIMLY-LIT APARTMENT OF SELINA KYLE...
PLEASE, BRUCE . I NEED YOU...BE THERE FOR ME... PLEASE ..
CRASH
GOOD EVENING WAYNE RESIDENCE!
NO I'M SORRY, MISS SELINA BUT MASTER BRUCE IS OUT FOR THE EVENING
IS THERE SOMETHING I MIGHT DO TO ASSIST YOU?
NO THANKS, ALFRED
JUST TELL BRUCE... I LOVE HIM.
IT WAS SWEET OF ALFRED TO ASK-- BUT I'M AFRAID THERE'S NOTHING ANYONE CAN DO TO HELP ME NOW!
IF I HOPE TO SURVIVE THIS MESS...
...MAYBE IT'S TIME I STARTED HELPING MYSELF!
AND, BACK ACROSS TOWN ..
I-- I CAN'T MOVE!
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME?
NOTHIN' PERMANENT, MATE--YOU'RE SIMPLY TIED TO MY GIANT ROCKET-POWERED BOOMERANG!
ONLY FLASH'S SUPER-SPEED SAVED HIM FROM THE ORIGINAL-- AND WITHOUT SUPER-POWERS, YOU'LL NEVER ESCAPE THIS IMPROVED VERSION!
13

WHAT IN BLAZES ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS? WITH YOU OUT OF THE WAY ONCE AND FOR ALL, THIS CITY SUDDENLY LOOKS A LOT MORE ATTRACTIVE TO ME!
I MIGHT JUST DECIDE TO MAKE GOTHAM MY NEW [redacted]!
YOUR HOME IS BEHIND BARS, BOOMERANG--
--AND THAT'S JUST WHERE YOU'RE GOING!
BRAVE TALK FROM A DEAD MAN, COBBER! WHEN I THROW THIS SWITCH, YOU'LL BE LAUNCHED INTO THE STRATOSPHERE!
BUT YOU NEEDN'T WORRY ABOUT DYING OF ASPHYXIATION, MATE--
--BECAUSE THE DOOMERANG IS RIGGED TO EXPLODE LONG BEFORE THAT CAN EVER HAPPEN!
HAVE A NICE TRIP, BATMAN--IF ONLY A BRIEF ONE!
WITH A DEAFENING ROAR, THE ROCKETS IGNITE, THROWING UP BILLOWING CLOUDS OF SMOKE THAT ALL BUT OBSCURE THE DOOMERANG ITSELF--
ZUSSSH!
--UNTIL, WITH A SUDDEN VIOLENT LURCH, THE MONSTROUS DEATH-DEVICE IS HURLED SAVAGELY INTO SPACE!
14

FOR SEVERAL INTERMINABLE SECONDS, THE MAN CALLED BOOMERANG WATCHES TRIUMPHANTLY AS HIS DEADLY TOY DWINDLES INTO THE DISTANCE--
--BECOMING MERELY ANOTHER PINPOINT STAR IN THE CLOUD-SWEPT HEAVENS--
--A STAR THAT ABRUPTLY GOES NOVA, TURNING THE DARKNESS INTO DAYLIGHT FOR ONE BRIEF TERRIBLE MOMENT--
WHA-WHOOM!
--BEFORE FADING INTO OBLIVION!
I WARNED THAT POINTY-EARED COPPER NOT TO MESS WITH ME! TOO BAD FOR HIM HE DIDN'T LISTEN!
NOBODY CROSSES CAPTAIN BOOMERANG AND LIVES TO TELL THE--
--TALE?!?
IS THAT SO?
NO! IT CAN'T BE! YOU'RE DEAD! YOU MUST BE DEAD!
NOBODY COULD POSSIBLY SURVIVE A FLIGHT ON MY DOOMERANG!
THAT'S ASSUMING I EVER TOOK THAT FLIGHT--WHICH I DIDN'T!
WHILE YOU WERE BUSY TALKING, I MANEUVERED MY BONDS UP AGAINST THE DOOMERANG'S ROCKET-JETS--AND THE IGNITION-FLAMES FREED ME!
THEN I SIMPLY SLIPPED AWAY UNDER COVER OF ALL THAT SMOKE BEFORE THE DOOMERANG TOOK OFF!
15


YOU'VE GOT MORE LIVES THAN A CAT, BATMAN--BUT THIS NEXT SHOT WILL FINISH YOU!
ANY TIME YOU'RE READY, BOOMERANG--GO FOR IT!
LIKE GUNFIGHTERS OF OLD THEY STAND, HANDS POISED, NARROWED EYES ALERT FOR THAT TELLTALE GESTURE, THAT IMPERCEPTIBLE SIGN MOTION--
--AND THEN, AT ONCE, IT COMES! WITH A SINGLE MOVEMENT, THE BATMAN AND THE MAN CALLED BOOMERANG HURL THEIR WEAPONS --
--AND THOUGH THEY ARE VIRTUALLY EQUALS IN THE USE OF THIS ANCIENT DEADLY ART --
KRAK
--ONE BOOMERANG IS THROWN JUST SLIGHTLY STRAIGHTER, STRONGER AND MORE SURE--
--AND, IN THE END, THAT IS MORE THAN ENOUGH!
UUNNHH!!
POW
THE GOOD CAPTAIN IS OUT FOR THE COUNT THIS TIME--BUT I OWE HIM A SMALL DEBT OF GRATITUDE!
HE INTRODUCED ME TO GREGORIAN FALSTAFF, BRUCE WAYNE'S BIGGEST RIVAL-- AND THAT'S ONE MAN I'M GOING TO HAVE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT!

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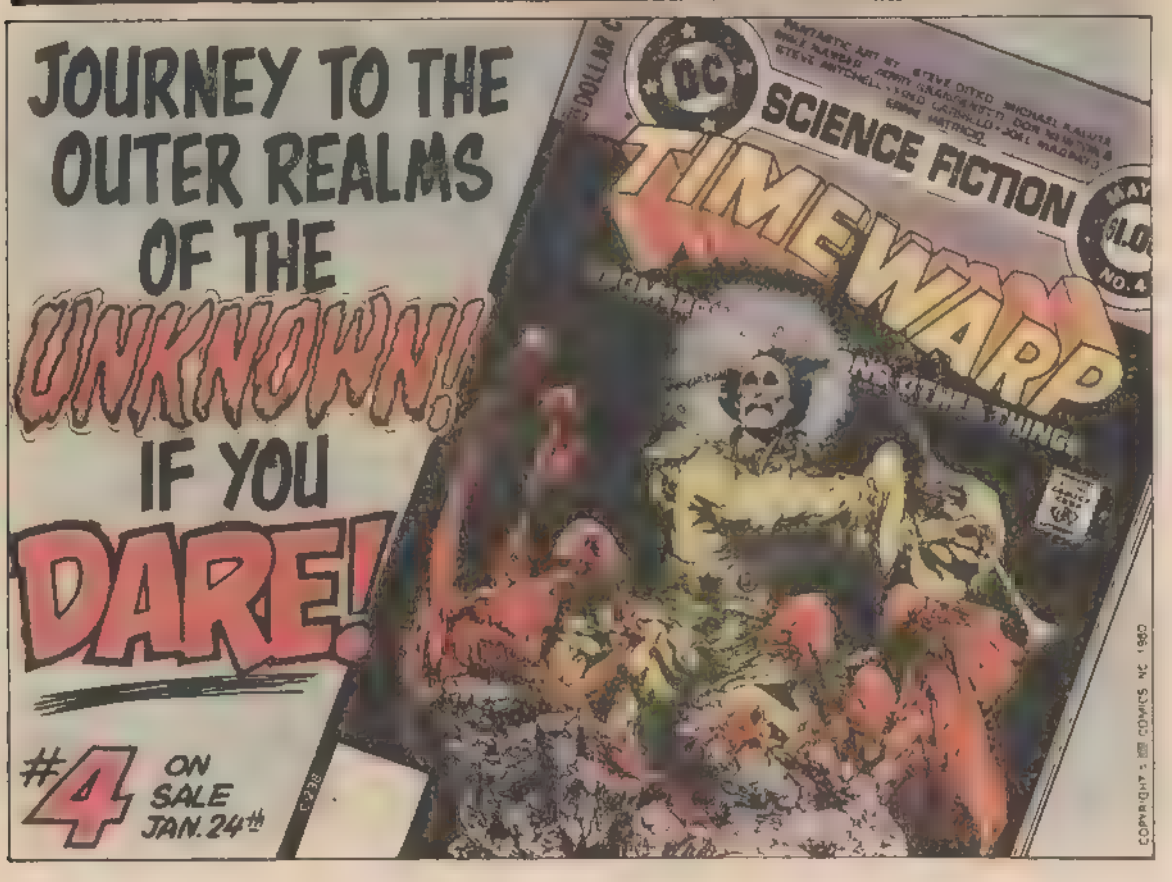

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- WHICH ONE OF BATMAN'S ARCH-FOES WILL USE **INSANITY** AS A WEAPON?
- WHY DOES MAN-BAT WANT **REVENGE** ON BATMAN?
- CAN **BLACK LIGHTNING** HELP BATMAN STOP AN OIL WAR ON GOTHAM'S STREETS?
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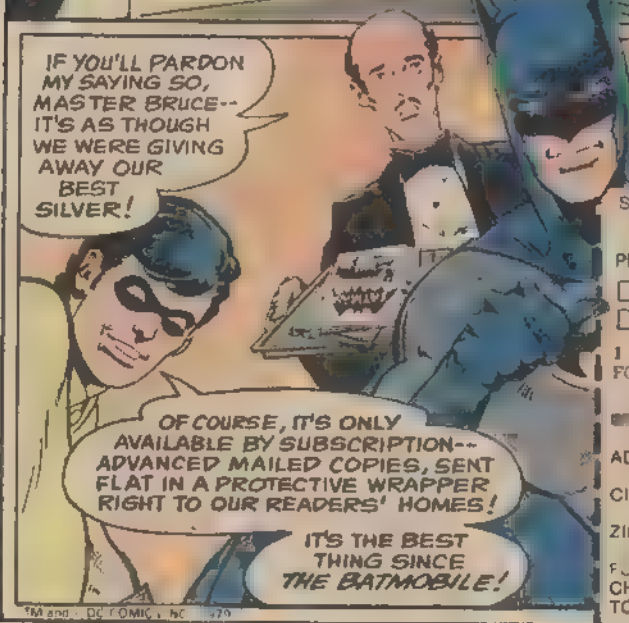
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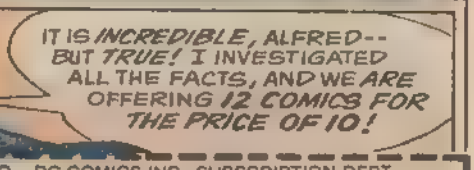

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BUT EVEN AS THE UNCONSCIOUS CAPTAIN BOOMERANG IS BEING BAT-CUFFED THERE IS ONE LAST ITEM TO CONCERN US--
--BACK AT RIVERSIDE MUSEUM--
-- WHERE A DUTIFUL NIGHT WATCHMAN IS MAKING AN UNSETTLING DISCOVERY..
HUH? THERE'S SOMEBODY PROWLIN' AROUND INSIDE THE EGYPTIAN EXHIBIT ROOM!
OKAY, WHOEVER YOU ARE--HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
I DON'T WANNA HURT ANYBODY--BUT I WILL IF YOU FORCE ME TO!
BUT AS THE NERVOUS GUARD CAUTIOUSLY APPROACHES HIS SEEMING CAPTIVE, THE SHADOWY FIGURE MOVES WITH PANTHER-LIKE SWIFTNESS--
-GLEAMING CLAWS SLASHING THROUGH THE DARKNESS!
AARRGGHH!!
CRIPES! I DON'T BELIEVE IT! BUT THERE AIN'T BUT ONE PERSON WITH THAT KIND OF OUTFIT--AN CLAWS TO MATCH!
THE CATWOMAN IS ON THE PROWL AGAIN!!
NEXT ISSUE:
PROWL THE UNDERWORLD OF GOTHAM--ON A MISSION OF LIFE AND DEATH! JOIN US FOR--
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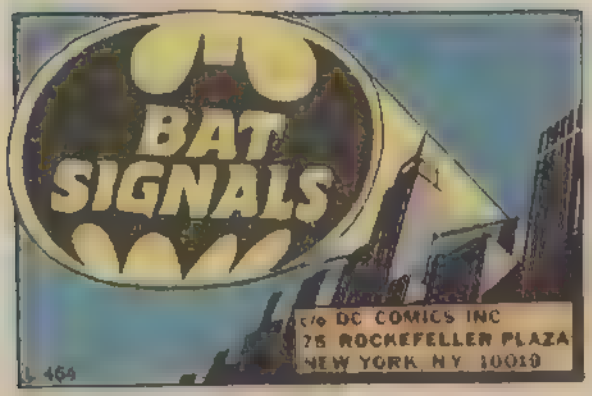

Dear Paul

Why did a southpaw Riddler appear in *Batman* #317? Because he was the only Batman villain that was left!

Well, Len Wein hasn't exhausted the seemingly endless supply of Batman foes *yet*, but he's getting there. But I don't mind a bit—this format is really shaping up. Not only do we see the return of a classic enemy each month, we also get subplots galore. Coupled with Irv Novick's exemplary art, the end result is bound to be sheer excellence.

Now that Robin is not a major part of Batman's adventures anymore, his visits like this and last month's are more than welcome. Perhaps each summer, like the JLA-JSA team-ups, we could see the Dynamic Duo in action again. After all, they *are* comics' first and best team.

Concerning Selina Kyle: Catwoman has gone sequentially good then evil *before*, so a Bruce-Selina romance is doomed. It will only be a matter of months before she becomes the Queen of Crime once again, so why toy with our interest? There *can't* be a wedding in the offing ...can there?

Why is a reader of *Batman* like a drunk? Once one partakes of a little Wein, he wants some more!

Mark Lagasse
R. D. #1 Box 116
Hoosick Falls, New York 12090

Whatever is in the offing, the truth will out next month...or perhaps the month after at the latest. As you can see, we're coming ever closer to the conclusion of this plotline — Pl

. . . . . .

Dear Len

The next time that you have a compulsion to write a Riddler story, take a leaf from the late Bill Finger.

In *BATMAN* #317, you struggled to tie together a few timeworn riddles involved in the solution to a simple gun-smuggling crime-drama, when you really could have taxed the faculties of Batman and Robin by consulting the local library as to books on riddles, enigmas, etc., weird enough to both entertain and inform the readers.

Did you know that ostriches emit a sound like a roaring lion when aroused? I never knew this until I happened to read an old Penguin story where the felon had Robin secreted behind a blind, while trying to convince Batman that a lion menaced the boy.

I owe this fact and my enjoyment of that story to Bill Finger's flair for research.

How about some?

Jeffrey Lowndes
809 Sunset St.
Scranton, Pa. 18509

We've done a few stories around obscure information and locales, and our various writers, Len included, have certainly also done their homework. But if it's a pure research story you're looking for, like some of the Batman tales of the 50's, we suggest you check out the new series of Tales of Gotham City occasionally in DETECTIVE COMICS. Some of the upcoming episodes were tailored with that fit in mind — Pl

Dear Editor

Why did the Riddler cross the road? Answer: In order to outwit the Batman. The Result: the Batman never had time to concern himself with the Prince of Puzzlers, so all of his best laid plans went to waste. "The Riddler's 1,001 Clue Caper" was an excellent story and it was a novelty Riddler story in that we were not given constant riddles in which to guess his crimes. By sending the Batman the book, the Riddler hoped to cover every contingency of his crime; and as the Batman stated, it might have worked if not for the fact that he was too busy to concern himself with the book.

I am sure that the Riddlers' ego would be further deflated if he knew that he had to play second fiddle to the Catwoman. It was great to see the public life of Bruce Wayne take precedence over Batman's duties. The fact that he and Robin were able to defeat the Riddler by sheer detective work instead of guess work made this story a further classic.

It was also nice that Len pointed out that, unlike the Joker, the Riddler is not a homicidal maniac and will not kill unless it is totally necessary. There is one point I would like to make, though. I would like to see the Riddler portrayed with a little more hyper-active insanity as Frank Gorshen played the part in the TV series.

Kent A. Phenis
1082 Sherwood Court #603
Greenwood, IN 46142

. . . . . .

NEXT MONTH: The Crimes Of The Catwoman? or the answer to the most-asked letter column question, "Whats is all this leading to?" Be here and find out!—Paul Levitz

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THE DC FEATURE PAGE

Q: Who are you?—Christopher Becker. *A*: I was Bob Rozakis the last time I looked!
Q: Where does the *Crumbler* keep his crumbling hand when he isn't using it?—Pete Nyblom. *A*: In his pocket?
Q: Would *Superman* have powers under a blue sun?—Darren Alley. *A*: Yes, since it is hotter than a yellow sun.
Q: When will I receive my DC Super-Star Society membership kit?—Russel Woodworth. *A*: The plans for the Society have been shelved and all money sent in has been returned. Watch our magazines for an announcement concerning plans to go ahead with it.
Q: What comic did *Metamorpho* first appear in?—Jeff Rush. *A*: He debuted in *BRAVE & BOLD* #57.
Q: Why was *Supergirl* sent to Earth?—John Canteleiro. *A*: Because meteorites smashed through the lead shielding of Argo City and exposed its inhabitants to deadly anti-kryptonite.
Q: Will the *Martian Manhunter* be appearing in *JUSTICE LEAGUE* again?—James Wood. *A*: *J'onn J'onzz* will be turning up in *JLA* before you know it!
Q: Will there ever be a comic about the *Adult Legion of Super-Heroes*?—Jeffrey Armstrong. *A*: I doubt they'd get their own title, but such a tale might appear now that the *LEGION* has its own book.
Q: Have Perry White and Commissioner Gordon ever met?—Mark Lagasse. *A*: Yes.

Q: Was *Mirror Master* ever a hero?—John Wallen. *A*: No, he began his career as a super-villain in *FLASH* #105, the first issue featuring the Earth-1 speedster.
Q: If the sand-creature from Quarrm took 1/3 of *Superman*'s powers, is *Supergirl* now stronger than her cousin?—Rocco Galante and Joe Reagan. *A*: No, *Superman* would be stronger without superpowers, so he is stronger than *Supergirl*.

Q: How do you determine how many issues are in a "volume"?—Paige Vogele. *A*: We assign a new volume number at the beginning of each calendar year. The number of issues in a volume is determined by the frequency of the book.
Q: How about a rundown of artists and writers who have appeared in your stories?—Jonathan Locke and Gary Wind. *A*: Cary Bates met *The Flash* in *FLASH* #228, then went with Elliot SI Maggin into *JLA* #'s 123 and 124. Len Wein, Gerry Conway and Steve Englehart were in *JLA* #103. Bob Haney, Jim Aparo and Murray Boltinoff joined *Batman* and *Sgt. Rock* in *BRAVE & BOLD* #124. And Bob Rozakis, Al Milgrom, Jack Harris, Mike Golden and Bob Smith were among those who met *Bat-Mite* in *DETECTIVE* #481.
Q: How did Kandor get to Earth anyway?—James Leonard. *A*: It was stolen by *Brainiac* before Krypton exploded, then rescued by *Superman* when he defeated the space villain. With no planet to return the city to, *Superman* put it in his Fortress of Solitude.
Q: Do you answer all the questions we send in?—Steven Robertson. *A*: I try to answer as many as possible, but there are many repetitions, so if you don't see your question answered, check other issues where someone else may have asked the same question.

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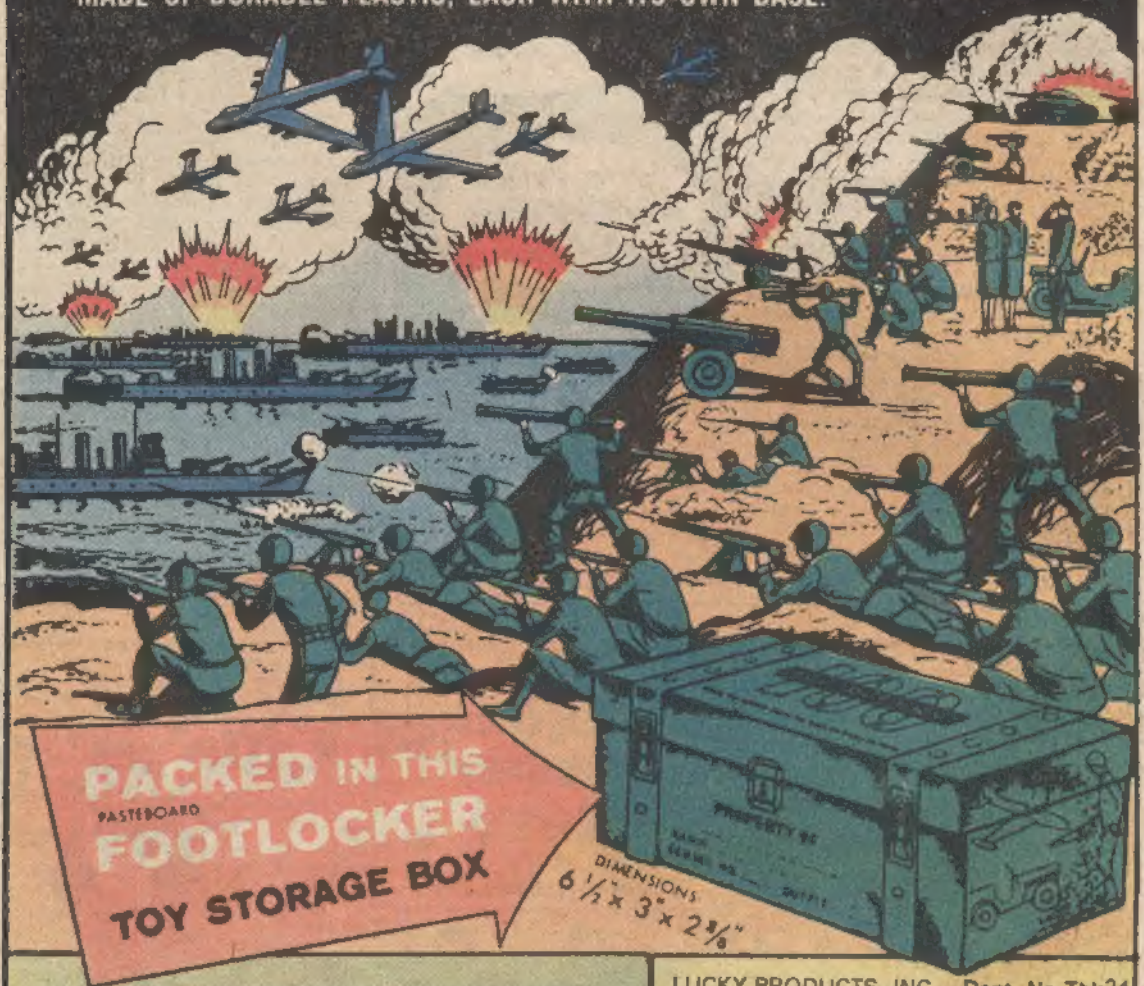

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